

# COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

## TRIBAL STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5

### Columbia River Compact Hearing

May 10 2011

***Fisheries under Consideration:*** Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery

#### Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 9 totals 115,840 adults. Based on the recent 5-year average, which includes four late-timed years, passage is typically about 52% complete (range 43% to 70%) by this date and the average 50% passage date is May 8 (range May 1-12).
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 9 and updated the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC indicated that they expect the river mouth run size of Upriver spring and Snake River spring/summer Chinook to be at least 198,400 (same as pre-season forecast).
- At the current projected run size, tribal fisheries are limited under the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement to a 9.1% harvest rate. The current projected allowed catch is 18,054 spring Chinook.

#### Treaty Fishery Update

- The tribes completed their ceremonial permit fishing with most permits complete as of last weekend and the final permit being completed today.
- Platform and hook and line fishing is ongoing in Zone 6 and hook and line fishing is ongoing downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The estimated catch in the combined tribal fisheries through Saturday May 7 is shown in the table below.

<b>2011 Tribal Mainstem Fisheries</b>	
Ceremonial Permits (preliminary)	8,275
Zone 6 Platform/H&L	1,060
Downstream of Bonneville	2,169
Total platform H&L	3,229
<b>Total tribal catch through May 7</b>	<b>11,504</b>
Total Allowed	18,054
Remaining	6,550
Predicted additional platform catch through June 15	2,800
Buffer	3,750

- Currently, tribal staff project the mainstem platform and hook and line fisheries will have a total harvest rate of approximately 3% which is based on historical data for average and higher than average spring Chinook runs. Based on this, the tribes project total spring season platform and hook and line catches of just under 6,000 fish. This leaves a current management buffer of approximately 3,700 fish.

- The tribes propose two actions. The first action is to allow the commercial sale of platform and hook and line caught fish beginning at 6:00 today. The Yakama Nation will propose matching regulations for their tributary fisheries. Sales will continue until further notice.
- The tribes will also propose that each of the four tribes will continue its fisheries downstream of Bonneville for all tribal members through 8:00 PM on Friday May 13 and that on Saturday May 14 there will be a special fishing day for tribal elders (over 55) and disabled tribal members only through 8:00 PM. After 8:00 PM on Saturday May 14, the tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam will close through June 15. On June 16 (the beginning of the summer management period) the fisheries downstream of Bonneville will re-open based on each tribes MOU's with the states.

<b>Recommendation: Commercial Sale of Mainstem Platform and Hook and Line Caught Fish</b>
<p><b>Season:</b> Fish caught after 6:00 PM on May 10, 2011 may be sold or retained for subsistence use until further notice.</p> <p><b>Area:</b> All of Zone 6 and during open periods and areas downstream of Bonneville Dam.</p> <p><b>Allowed Sales</b> Chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.</p> <p><b>Zone 6 GEAR:</b> Hoop Net, Dip Net, and Hook and Line for Zone 6 and Hook and line for downstream of Bonneville.</p> <p><b>Zone 6 SANCTUARIES:</b> All dam sanctuaries for these gear types shall remain in effect.</p> <p>Gear and Area downstream of Bonneville Dam is as defined in each tribe's MOU.</p> <p><b>Additional regulations:</b> The Washington Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington commercial fish buyers.</p>

- The Yakama Nation will propose that the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead be allowed in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries and in the Icicle Creek tributary fishery during their regularly scheduled openings that overlap with any commercial opening in Zone 6.
- The schedule for Yakama Tributary Fisheries is as shown in the table below.

<b>Staff Recommendation – Yakama Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries</b>
<p>The Yakama Nation proposes that sales of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries when those fisheries are open concurrent with allowed sales in Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries. These fisheries and their schedules are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wind River: noon Mondays through 6:00 PM Saturdays until June 25.</li> <li>2. Drano Lake Permit Gillnet fishery: Tuesday 9 PM through Wed noon each week through June 15.</li> <li>3. Big White Salmon River: Closed Sundays all year.</li> <li>4. Klickitat River: noon Tuesdays through 6:00 PM Saturdays until May 28, but may be extended through June with final closing date of December 31.</li> </ol>

Weekly fishing schedules are subject to modification based on catches and run sizes.

- Providing opportunity for tribal members to sell spring Chinook is expected to give a significant economic boost to tribal communities.
- Catch and effort is expected to gradually decrease as the spring Chinook run passes upstream. The tribes will continue to monitor fisheries and the tribes will make any needed management changes to keep the overall tribal fisheries within management limits.
- If sufficient spring Chinook remain available either due to the platform and hook and line fisheries catching less fish than anticipated or if the run size is larger than expected, the tribes may consider a commercial gillnet fishery later in the spring season.

<b>Spring Management Period Harvest Rate Schedule</b>						
Total Upriver Run Size	Snake River Natural Run Size	Treaty Harvest Rate	Treaty Catch Guideline	Non- Treaty Harvest Rate	Non- Treaty Mortality Guideline	Total Harvest Rate
<27,000	<2,700	5.0%		<0.5%		<5.5%
27,000	2,700	5.0%	1,350	0.5%	1,350	5.5%
33,000	3,300	5.0%	1,650	1.0%	1,650	6.0%
44,000	4,400	6.0%	2,640	1.0%	2,640	7.0%
55,000	5,500	7.0%	3,850	1.5%	3,850	8.5%
82,000	8,200	7.4%	6,068	1.6%	6,068	9.0%
109,000	10,900	8.3%	9,047	1.7%	9,047	10.0%
141,000	14,100	9.1%	12,831	1.9%	12,831	11.0%
217,000	21,700	10.0%	21,700	2.0%	21,700	12.0%
271,000	27,100	10.8%	29,268	2.2%	29,268	13.0%
326,000	32,600	11.7%	38,142	2.3%	38,142	14.0%
380,000	38,000	12.5%	47,500	2.5%	47,500	15.0%
434,000	43,400	13.4%	58,156	2.6%	58,156	16.0%
488,000	48,800	14.3%	69,784	2.7%	69,784	17.0%

#### **Future Meetings**

- The states will hold a Compact hearing on Wednesday May 11 and may schedule a Joint State Sport Hearing as appropriate.